



# DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION

## THE NAVAJO NATION

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Navajo Nation Board of Education is the Governing Body for Navajo Head Start

**Window Rock, Arizona.** On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at the special meeting held at the North Conference Room of the Council Chamber, the Health Education and Human Service Services Committee (HEHSC) approved Legislation No. 0252-13 which designates the Navajo Nation Board of Education as the Governing Body for the Navajo Head Start. After the reading of the legislation into the legislative record, Honorable Dwight Witherspoon motioned to approve the Legislation followed by Honorable Walter Phelps seconded the motion to begin committee discussion. Members of the Navajo Board of Education attended the HEHSC special meeting. Dr. Lamont Yazzie, Principal Education Specialist, Navajo Head Start, was also available at the HEHSC special meeting.

Based on its plan of operation approved by Resolution GSCMY-19-07, the Navajo Head Start is a program under the Department of Diné Education; however, the Navajo Nation has never specifically designated a “governing body” for Navajo Head Start. During the 2010 Administration of Children and Families (ACF) federal monitoring review, the ACF stipulated that Navajo Head Start is required to conduct regular reporting to its governing body.

The federal Head Start Act stipulates that the governing body may be an entity composed of “members who oversee a public entity and are selected to their positions with the public entity by public election or political appointment”. The Navajo Nation Board of Education is composed of elected and appointment officials; thus, meeting the requirement of the federal Head Start Act.

On January 8, 2013, during a work session, a discussion surfaced concerning the need to identify and designate a “governing body for the Navajo Head Start”. It was in that discussion that participants (*members of the Parent Policy Council and members of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee*) unanimously agreed that the Navajo Nation Board of Education (NNBOE) is best and able to serve as the governing body.

After thorough discussion, the Committee approved Legislation No. 0252-13 by a unanimous vote of five in favor and zero opposed. The Legislation is supported by resolutions from Navajo Head Start Policy Council and NNBOE, and by a Memorandum of Agreement between the Navajo Nation and Office of Head Start. For additional information on the Navajo Head Start’s governing body, contact Ms. Dawn Yazzie (928) 871-6902.

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